

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- Heritage Preservation Board, 7 p.m. Aug. 9
- Energy & Environment Commission, 7 p.m. Aug. 12
- HRA & City Council, 7 p.m. Aug. 17
- Transportation Commission, 6 p.m. Aug. 19

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We'd like to hear from you ...

If you have any comments, call Communications & Marketing Director Jennifer Bennerotte at 952-833-9520. The text of this publication will be available online at www.CityofEdina.com.



A summary of the Aug. 2 Edina City Council & HRA meeting

City considers dispatching for Golden Valley

At a work session prior to its regular meeting, the Council considered providing emergency dispatching services to another suburb.

Several months ago, the City of Golden Valley asked the Edina Police Department to provide a proposal for providing emergency dispatching services. Golden Valley received proposals from Edina, as well as St. Louis Park and Minneapolis. Currently, Golden Valley contracts with St. Louis Park for dispatching, but staff has indicated a preference for working with Edina instead.

The Edina Police Chief reported that he believes two additional full-time dispatchers would be needed to maintain minimum staffing levels in the 9-1-1 Communications Center. In addition, one-time upgrades to the department's computer-aided dispatch system would need to be installed and the server expanded. Based on those expenses, the Police Chief has proposed charging Golden Valley approximately \$175,000 per year for the services.

Council members indicated their general support for the idea. At its Aug. 17 meeting, the Council will act on a recommendation to authorize staff to negotiate a contract with the City of Golden Valley.

Council hears report on Supreme Court ruling

At a work session, the Council learned the impact a recent Minnesota Supreme Court case will have on local land use. In June 2010, the Minnesota Supreme Court issued a ruling that significantly reduced the

authority cities have to allow flexibility to property owners who want to make changes to their property. As a result of the ruling, cities can now issue very few variances.

The City's zoning ordinance determines how property owners may develop their properties. If a proposal doesn't meet those rules, an exception—a variance—might have been granted in the past. The Minnesota Supreme Court ruling has severely reduced the city's ability to allow exceptions to its zoning code in this way.

The Council was advised by the City Attorney to follow the ruling until such time that the zoning code is updated or other remedies are enacted by the Legislature.

The Council directed staff to review variances issued in the past three years and look for patterns. If patterns surface, the Council could consider related changes to the zoning ordinance. Also, the Planning Commission and City Council will consider the use of Planned Unit Developments in the future.

Staff will advise any residents interested in a variance of the recent court ruling and allow them to withdraw their applications and receive refunds of the permit fees. If a resident chooses to move forward with a request for a variance, they will be processed and likely denied as a result of the ruling.

Council approves sidewalks

The Council approved the construction of two sidewalks.

The Council approved the construction of a sidewalk on Interlachen Boulevard from Bedford

Avenue to William Avenue. They also approved a sidewalk on the east side of Normandale Road and along the north side of Valley View Road from Benton Avenue to Concord Avenue.

Both projects will be constructed in 2011 and paid for using Municipal State Aid funds. No property owners will be assessed for any portion of the projects.

Council approves amendment to final development plan

The Council approved an amendment to a final development plan that will allow for a new restaurant at Centennial Lakes.

Pinstripes, an Illinois-based company that operates restaurants with bowling alleys and bocce ball courts, plans to open in Cypress Equities development at Centennial Lakes.

The amended final development plan for the project was approved with several conditions, including the requirement that the restaurant obtain a loudspeaker permit from the City for outdoor amplification. Decibel levels may not exceed State noise standards or be audible to residents on their property on the east side of Centennial Lake. If the sound exceeds the standards or is audible to those residents on two or more occasions within a 90-day period and the incidents are confirmed by a Police Officer or other City employee, subsequent outdoor amplification will be prohibited.

Pinstripes plans to open in November.